

Forward Progress



Police wearing riot gear walk past Edward Jones Dome following an NFL football game between the St. Louis Rams and the Oakland Raiders, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, in St. Louis.
(AP Photo/Tom Gannam)

As Officer Resigns, Ferguson Tries to Move On

JIM SALTER

Associated Press

FERGUSON, Missouri (AP)

— The white police officer who killed an unarmed

black 18-year-old resigned from his job with the Ferguson Police Department after learning of threats of violence against other of-

ficers and the department, his lawyer said Sunday. Darren Wilson, 28, had been on administrative leave since Aug. 9, when

he shot and killed Michael Brown.

A grand jury decided Monday not to indict Wilson, sparking days of sometimes

violent protests in Ferguson and other cities across the U.S.

Continued on Page 3

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Ferguson

Continued from front

Wilson wrote in his resignation letter that his "continued employment may put the residents and police officers of the City of Ferguson at risk, which is a circumstance I cannot allow."

His lawyer, Neil Bruntrager, told The Associated Press that Wilson decided to step aside after police Chief Tom Jackson told him about the alleged threats on Saturday.

"The information we had was that there would be actions targeting the Ferguson (police) department or buildings in Ferguson related to the police department," Bruntrager said. He said Wilson, who had worked for the department for less than three years, and the city were already discussing an exit strategy, acknowledging that staying on as an officer there would be impossible.

Ferguson's mayor said Sunday that Wilson did not receive any severance

package. Wilson won't receive any further pay or benefits, and he and the city have severed their ties, Mayor James Knowles told reporters a day after Wilson tendered his resignation, effective immediately.

Many have criticized the authorities' handling of the case, but Knowles said no leadership changes were in the works. Asked if he would resign, Jackson said flatly, "No."

Benjamin Crump, an attorney for Brown's family, said Wilson's resignation was not a surprise.

"It was always believed that the police officer would do what was in his best interest, both personally and professionally," Crump said. "We didn't believe that he would be able to be effective for the Ferguson community nor the Ferguson Police Department because of the tragic circumstances that claimed the life of Michael Brown Jr."

Crump said the family is still considering civil litigation such as a wrongful death lawsuit, "but don't let that

get confused with the fact that they really wanted the killer of their child to be held accountable."

On Saturday night, more than 100 protesters gathered near Ferguson police headquarters, where they

Many seemed unfazed by Wilson's resignation. Several merely shrugged their shoulders when asked what they thought.

Wilson has spent his entire adult life as a police officer, first in neighboring

have a paycheck," Bruntrager said. "He has no income so he'll have to make some decisions pretty quickly."

Wilson fatally shot Brown in the middle of a Ferguson street after the two scuffled inside Wilson's police SUV. Brown's body was left for more than four hours as police investigated and angry onlookers gathered.

In the days after the shooting, tense and sometimes violent protests occurred in and around Ferguson, a predominantly black community patrolled by a mostly white police force. Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon called in the National Guard to help. Some witnesses have said Brown had his hands up when Wilson shot him. Wilson told the grand jury that he feared for his life when Brown hit him and reached for his gun.

The U.S. Justice Department is conducting a civil rights investigation into the shooting and a separate investigation of Ferguson police practices. It isn't clear when that decision will be announced. □



Police arrest protest organizer Derrick Robinson, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, in St. Louis. Protesters and police clashed following an NFL football game between the St. Louis Rams and the Oakland Raiders as protests continued following a grand jury's decision not to indict a Ferguson police officer in the shooting death of Michael Brown.

(AP Photo/Tom Gannam)

were outnumbered by officers. Two people were arrested. Another protester burned an American flag. By midnight, only about two dozen protesters remained.

Jennings, then in Ferguson. Bruntrager said it's all he's ever wanted to do.

"In terms of what it (the resignation) means, it means at this point he doesn't

Cyber Monday gears up to get online shoppers hyped

MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After a busy holiday weekend in shopping malls, millions of Americans are expected to log on and keep shopping on the day dubbed Cyber Monday.

That day, the Monday after Thanksgiving, has been the biggest online shopping day of the year since 2010. The day could take on added importance after a Thanksgiving weekend that saw fewer shoppers and lower spending than last

year, according to some estimates. Retailers have been pushing deals all month and particularly the past week, hoping to spur customers to spend. That may have taken away some spending from Thanksgiving



Amazon.com employees work the shelves along the miles of aisles at an Amazon.com Fulfillment Center on "Cyber Monday", the Monday after Thanksgiving and the busiest online shopping day of the holiday season, in Phoenix. Millions of Americans are expected to log on and keep shopping on Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, the day dubbed Cyber Monday.

(AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

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Research firm comScore expects people to spend about \$2.5 billion on Cyber Monday.

There's reason to think a lot of dollars are migrating online.

PayPal said its global mobile payment volume jumped 47 percent on Thanksgiving Day compared with last year. Wal-Mart said it had more than 500 million page views on Thanksgiving, and eBay says it sold 2,000 iPad Air 2 tablets for \$399 at a rate of one a second.

Amazon has been offering special deals since Nov. 21, adding new discounts as often as every 10 minutes for eight days straight. Deals include up to 45 percent off some Samsung TVs and 28 percent off Beats by Dre headphones, selling for \$275.

Wal-Mart said it has doubled its Cyber Week deals to 500 compared with last year, including up to half off some TVs, tablets and toys with free-shipping offers.

Toys R Us is offering online deals for 11 days that began the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and also has free-shipping offers. Cyberdeals include \$15 off Disney "Frozen" Princess dolls that are regularly \$50 and \$20 off a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Battroborg Electronic Battle Game that is usually \$80.

The name "Cyber Monday" was coined in 2005 by the National Retail Federation's online arm, Shop.

org, to encourage people to shop online. After retailers revved up deals for the day, it became the busiest online shopping day in 2010. The name was also a nod to online shopping being done at work, where faster connections made it easier to browse, less of a factor now.

Cyber Monday comes after a weekend that saw 5.3 percent fewer shoppers and 11 percent less spending, according to estimates by the National Retail Federation.

"Online is nowhere near its maturity, so Cyber Monday should be big, with a lot of strength in the days leading up to it," Forester Research analyst Sucharita Mulpuru said. "More consumers are spending more shopping dollars online."

She expects two spikes in online shopping: one during the long Thanksgiving weekend, including Cyber Monday, and one later in December when shipping deadlines to get items by Christmas start to hit.

Research firm comScore expects online sales to rise 16 percent to \$61 billion during the November and December shopping season, up 16 percent from last year. ComScore tracks U.S. online sales based on observed behavior of a representative U.S. consumer panel of 2 million Web users. The National Retail Federation has forecast overall holiday sales will increase 4.1 percent to \$616.9 billion in 2014. □

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Obama is Democrat's biggest hurdle in Louisiana

BILL BARROW

Associated Press

THIBODAUX, Louisiana

(AP) — President Barack Obama may not be on Louisiana's Senate run-off ballot, but it's clear his widespread unpopularity in the state stands as Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu's biggest hurdle to a fourth term.

Landrieu led an eight-candidate primary, but her 42 percent was only 16,000 votes ahead of Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy and far short of her 2008 totals when she won without a runoff. Exit polls explain the collapse: Landrieu got votes from 18 percent of whites, while nearly three out of four white voters said they strongly disapprove of the president.

"It's not so much a Mary thing as it is a Democrat thing and Obama thing," said restaurant owner Dean Gehbauer of Thibodaux. That makes Cassidy, a congressman from Baton Rouge, the favorite on Dec. 6. A Cassidy win would push Republicans' new Senate majority to 54 seats in January and complete the party's southern sweep of top statewide offices from the Carolinas westward to Texas. Election returns offer little to suggest Gehbauer is wrong. In the last six years, Landrieu lost ground to Republicans in every Louisiana parish. In 2008, she defeated Republican John



On the morning after the Senate rejected approval of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, the bills's sponsor, Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, walks through a corridor on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014. Landrieu had hoped that passage of the Keystone bill would improve the chances of retaining her Senate seat in a runoff Dec. 6 against Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy.

Kennedy by 121,111 votes statewide. This time, Cassidy and third-place finisher Rob Maness, an ultraconservative tea-party favorite

who has since endorsed Cassidy, combined to lead Landrieu by 186,207 votes, a net swing of 307,318. Thibodaux's surrounding

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

parish — Lafourche — illuminates the shift as one of 12 parishes that Landrieu won in 2008 but lost on Nov. 4. She defeated Kennedy

here by 265 votes, running about 8,000 votes ahead of Obama. This time, she trailed Cassidy by 3,277. Adding Maness's support, her deficit was 8,922.

Landrieu never has surpassed 52.1 percent statewide, and the 2014 midterms always promised difficulty. In the presidential elections of 1996 and 2008, she benefited from strong Democratic turnout, particularly among African-Americans, that typically wanes in midterm elections. She ran in the 2002 midterms as a moderate who worked with Republican President George W. Bush, who twice carried Louisiana.

But this year, for the first time, Landrieu faces a midterm electorate with the White House occupied by a Democrat who is widely unpopular in her state, a circumstance that led to defeats for Democratic incumbents in North Carolina, Arkansas and Alaska. □

No bomb found on Spain-NY flight after threat

NEW YORK (AP) — Authorities at John F. Kennedy International Airport said they found nothing dangerous Sunday on an American Airlines plane after a bomb threat was phoned in and the aircraft arrived from Spain. Flight 67 from Barcelona landed safely in New York City about noon, according to Laura Masvideo, a

spokeswoman for the airline.

The aircraft was taken to a location near the tarmac where the 200 passengers plus crew members were taken off the plane, according to Joe Pentangelo, spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey police.

Jacob Rosenberg, a New York City resident return-

ing from a vacation in Spain, said the flight had been making good time across the Atlantic, slightly ahead of the scheduled landing.

"The plane pulled up to the side of the runway," he said. "Then Port Authority police vehicles pulled up, along with a police bomb squad, fire trucks and K-9 units."

Rosenberg said passengers were evacuated and taken in buses to pass through customs.

Police and K-9 unit dogs then swept the plane and its cargo.

Pentangelo said all was clear after the bomb threat.

He said authorities were investigating the source of the call. □



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Justices weigh limits of free speech over Internet

SAM HANANEL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anthony Elonis claimed he was just kidding when he posted a series of graphically violent rap lyrics on Facebook about killing his estranged wife, shooting up a kindergarten class and attacking an FBI agent. But his wife didn't see it that way. Neither did a federal jury.

Elonis, who's from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was convicted of violating a federal law that makes it a crime to threaten another person.

In a far-reaching case that probes the limits of free speech over the Internet, the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday was to consider whether Elonis' Facebook posts, and others like it, deserve protection under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which guarantees freedom of speech.

Elonis argues that his lyrics were simply a crude and spontaneous form of expression that should not be considered threatening if he did not really mean it. The government says it

does not matter what Elonis intended, and that the true test of a threat is whether his words make a reasonable person feel threatened.

The case has drawn widespread attention from free-speech advocates who say comments on Facebook, Twitter and other social media can be hasty,

speech without regard to the speaker's intended meaning runs the risk of punishing protected First Amendment expression simply because it is crudely

heavily influenced by rap star Eminem, who has also fantasized in songs about killing his ex-wife.

But Elonis' wife testified that the comments made her fear for her life.

After she obtained a protective order against him, Elonis wrote a lengthy post mocking court proceedings: "Did you know that it's illegal for me to say I want to kill my wife?"

A female FBI agent later visited Elonis at his home to ask him about the postings. Elonis took to Facebook again: "Little agent lady stood so close, took all the strength I had not to turn the bitch ghost. Pull my knife, flick my wrist and slit her throat." Elonis was convicted of making threats of violence and sentenced to nearly four years in federal prison. A federal appeals court rejected his claim that his comments were protected by the First Amendment. The Obama administration says requiring proof that a speaker intended to be threatening would undermine the law's protective purpose. In its brief to the court, the Justice Department argued that no matter what someone believes about his comments, it does not lessen the fear and anxiety they might cause for other people. "The First Amendment does not require that a person be permitted to inflict those harms based on an unreasonable subjective belief that his words do not mean what they say," government lawyers said. The National Center for Victims of Crime, which submitted a brief supporting the government, said judging threats based on the speaker's intent would make stalking crimes even more difficult to prosecute. □



This photo shows the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, as seen from the roof of the U.S. Capitol. Anthony Elonis claimed he was just kidding when he posted a series of graphically violent rap lyrics on Facebook about killing his estranged wife, shooting up a kindergarten class and attacking an FBI agent. But his wife didn't see it that way. Neither did a federal jury.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

One post about his wife said, "There's one way to love you but a thousand ways to kill you. I'm not going to rest until your body is a mess, soaked in blood and dying from all the little cuts."

impulsive and easily misinterpreted. They point out that a message on Facebook intended for a small group could be taken out of context when viewed by a wider audience.

"A statute that proscribes

or zealously expressed," said a brief from the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups. But so far, most lower courts have rejected that view, ruling that a "true threat" depends on how an objective person perceives the message.

For more than four decades, the Supreme Court has said that "true threats" to harm another person are not protected speech under the First Amendment. But the court has been careful to distinguish threats from protected speech such as "political hyperbole" or "unpleasantly sharp attacks."

Elonis claims he was depressed and that his online posts under the pseudonym "Tone Dougie" were a way to vent his frustration after his wife left him and he lost his job working at an amusement park. His lawyers say the posts were

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Qatar bars US couple from leaving after acquittal

**ABDULLAH REBHY
ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press
LOS ANGELES/DOHA, Qatar (AP)** — An American couple cleared Sunday by a Qatari appeals court of wrongdoing in the death of their 8-year-old adopted daughter has been barred from leaving the Middle Eastern country just hours after they were told

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry welcomed the court's decision to overturn the Huang's conviction, but said the U.S. was "deeply concerned about new delays that have prevented their departure." Kerry said in a press statement that he had spoken Sunday with Foreign Minister Khalid al-Attiya and urged the Qatari govern-

ments complicated by unusual eating habits that included periods of bingeing and self-starvation. Prosecutors alleged she died after being denied food and locked in her room.

The Huangs have two other African-born adopted children and have been pressing Qatari officials unsuccessfully for permission to leave the country to be with them.

"It has been a long and emotional trial for me and my family, and Grace and I want to go home and be reunited with our sons," Matthew Huang said shortly after the ruling. "We have been unable to grieve our daughter."

Matthew Huang had been working in the booming nation as part of infrastructure improvements for Qatar's hosting of the 2022 World Cup.

U.S. officials intervened on the couple's behalf by raising the case with Qatari officials on multiple occasions. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki last month urged Qatar to lift the Huangs' travel ban immediately and bring the case to "an expeditious and just conclusion."

Qatar also hosts an important American military air operations center near Doha that is involved in airstrikes against the Islamic State group. The U.S. ambassador met the Huangs at Qatar's sleek new Hamad International Airport, which opened earlier this year and is the base for fast-growing flag carrier Qatar Airways. □



American couple Grace and Matthew Huang, who were sentenced to jail on murder charges following the January 2013 death of their adopted daughter Gloria, pose for a photo before they meet with the U.S. Ambassador to Qatar in Doha, Qatar. A Qatari appeals court has overturned a ruling against the American couple over the death of their adopted daughter. (AP Photo/Osama Faisal)

they were free to go. Matthew and Grace Huang were stopped from exiting the conservative Gulf nation and had their passports confiscated as they tried to pass through airport immigration control in the capital, Doha, said family representative Eric Volz, who is traveling with them. The unexpected delay adds a new twist to a closely watched legal saga over the death of their adopted daughter, Gloria, that may have stemmed from cultural misunderstandings in the conservative Gulf nation. The Los Angeles couple had been banned from leaving the energy-rich OPEC nation while their case made its way through the courts, but the appeals court ruled Sunday they were free to leave after the presiding judge overturned a child endangerment conviction against them. They were met at the airport by U.S. Ambassador Dana Shell Smith, reflecting the intensity of American government interest in the case.

ment to immediately implement the court's decision and allow the family to return to the U.S. "without further delay."

"The thoroughly documented findings of the court clearly establish the Huangs' innocence. The 22 long months of court proceedings following their daughter's tragic death have compounded the tragedy for the Huang family, and it is time now, as the Appeals Court stated, to let the Huangs return home," Kerry said.

The Huangs spent months behind bars before being let out on their own recognition last November. They were convicted in March of this year of child endangerment and sentenced to three years in prison. They were allowed to remain free pending their appeal.

A doctor in Qatar who conducted Gloria's autopsy determined that dehydration and wasting disease were the cause of death. The Huangs have maintained their innocence and say Gloria suffered from medical prob-

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LGBT baby boomers face tough retirement hurdles

KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For Kathy Murphy, the difference between being gay

62-year-old Texas widow says. She saved, bought a house with her spouse and has a pension through her employer.

missing out on thousands of dollars a year in Social Security benefits simply because she was married to a woman, not a man.

same-sex couples depending on what state they live in. Had Murphy and her wife, Sara Barker, lived next door in New Mexico, a state that recognizes same-sex marriage, this wouldn't have been an issue.

"I never thought I would live to see same-sex marriage, but the government still minimizes my marriage and my relationship of 32 years," Murphy says.

Murphy could be thought of as just one of the many baby boomers who are not prepared for retirement. But while the group overall is not ready to stop working, gay boomers face challenges that make them even more vulnerable, experts say.

Decades of workplace discrimination impaired their earnings. The AIDS crisis frightened many HIV-positive gay men and women into thinking they wouldn't live long and discouraged them from saving. Legal loopholes within Social Security have left gay boomers with less income.

Same-sex couples in general are likely to have saved less for retirement than their straight counterparts, according to an exclusive analysis of the Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The center is jointly operated by The Associated Press and NORC, a leading research center at the University of Chicago.

The median retirement savings for a same-sex couple is roughly \$66,000, while straight married couples have roughly \$88,000, according to the data, which looks at the finances of straight and same-sex couples aged 19 to 95 going back to 2001.

"In the aging world, there has been little regard for even the existence of LGBT older people, let alone their particular social and financial needs," says Michael Adams, executive director of SAGE, a national organization focused on social services and advocacy for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender seniors.

LOWER EARNINGS

Gays and lesbians have faced higher unemployment, lower wages, and workplace discrimination. While many corporations have non-discrimination policies now, it is still legal to fire someone for their sexual orientation in 27 states, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Two studies, one by Pew Research in 2013 and one by Gallup in 2012, concluded that LGBT individuals were more likely to make less money than their straight peers during their careers. A study by the Williams Institute, a California-based think tank, showed gay men earned as much as 32 percent less than straight men. □



Jim Albaugh talks about his living arrangements in the New York apartment he shares with two roommates. Albaugh could be thought of as just one of the working poor, untold millions in the baby boomer generation who are not prepared for retirement. But he represents something more as one of thousands of gay and lesbian baby boomers confronting a retirement of greater financial hardship than his straight peers. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

or straight is \$583 a month. Retirement should have been a "slam dunk," the

But Murphy's retirement has not been as secure as it should have been. She is

Murphy fell into a loophole in Social Security that denies survivor benefits to

Financial tips for same-sex couples

KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Gay and lesbian individuals are less prepared financially for retirement than their straight counterparts, according to an exclusive analysis by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

LGBT adults are likely to have less in retirement savings and have less access to Social Security benefits from spouses. They are also more likely to need long-term care because fewer have children to care for them as they age. Varying state laws also make

it difficult for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender couples to plan for retirement.

Here are planning tips for LGBT couples:

KNOW LOCAL LAWS: Even though 35 of the 50 U.S. states and Washington, D.C. allow same-sex marriage, LGBT couples still face significant legal hurdles in many areas that could impact their financial well-being. If you're moving to a state that bans same-sex marriage, make sure you're financially prepared for the fact that Social Security will not be available for your surviving partner. Inheri-

tance laws also vary from state to state.

RE-CHECK YOUR EMPLOYER'S POLICIES: Corporate America's stance on gay rights has changed dramatically over the last 15 years. Ninety one percent of companies in the Fortune 500 have policies banning discrimination based on sexual orientation, up from 61 percent in 2002, according to the Human Rights Campaign. For employees of those companies, it means medical coverage, pension and 401(k) inheritance rights are now fairly common for same-sex spouses. It's worth check-

ing your employer's latest policies.

LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE: Without children to care for you as you age, it is likely you'll need some sort of assisted living service. Such help is not cheap. A part-time in-home health aide costs around \$30,000 a year while a private room at a nursing home could run you as much as \$94,000, according to a 2013 survey by John Hancock Life Insurance Co. Those costs are expected to keep rising. Financial planners recommend long-term care insurance, particularly for people without children. □



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Pope, patriarch demand end to Islamic State attacks

NICOLE WINFIELD
SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Pope Francis and the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians demanded an end to the persecution of religious minorities in Syria and Iraq on Sunday and called for a "constructive dialogue" with Muslims, capping the pontiff's three-day visit to Turkey with a strong show of Christian unity in the face of suffering and violence. Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I issued a joint declaration urging leaders in the region to intensify assistance to victims of the Islamic State group, and especially to allow Christians who have had a presence in the region for 2,000 years to remain on their native lands. "The terrible situation of Christians and all those who are suffering in the Middle East calls not only for our constant prayer but also for an appropriate response on the part of the international community," they wrote. Specifically, Francis told reporters on the way home from Istanbul that all Islamic leaders — political, religious, academic — should clearly condemn terrorism so that their people hear it directly from their mouths. "We need a global condemnation — including from Muslims — who say 'This isn't who we are. This isn't the Quran,'" he said. Francis, who represents the 1.2 billion-strong Catholic Church, and Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians, called for "constructive dialogue" with Islam "based on mutual respect and friendship." "Inspired by common values and strengthened by

genuine fraternal sentiments, Muslims and Christians are called to work together for the sake of justice, peace and respect for the dignity and rights of every person, especially in those regions where they once lived for centuries in peaceful coexistence and now tragically suffer together the horrors of war," they said.

Francis' outreach to Muslims in the Muslim nation, and his comments about the Islamic assault on Christians next door, took center stage during his brief visit: His prayer in Istanbul's Sultan Ahmet mosque was replayed again and again on Turkish television in a sign that his gesture was greatly appreciated. And it seemed that the message was reciprocated: The grand mufti of Istanbul, Rahmi Yaran, who received him at the mosque, said he hoped that Francis' visit would "contribute to the world getting along well and living in peace." Francis told reporters on the way home from Istanbul that he was greatly touched by the care that Yaran took in showing him around the mosque and explaining verses of the Quran to him, such that he felt inspired to pray together with him when they reached the eastern most part of the room.

"I prayed for Turkey, for peace, for the mufti, for everyone, for myself because I need it," Francis said. "I really prayed, and I prayed for peace above all, saying to the Lord 'let's end this way.' It was a moment of sincere prayer." Another poignant moment during the trip came when he met with about 100 Iraqi and Syrian refugee children, telling them that he wanted to share in their suf-

fering, offer his consolation and give them hope.

"I ask political leaders to

always remember that the great majority of their people long for peace, even

if at times they lack the strength and voice to demand it," he said. □



Pope Francis, left, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I sign a joint declaration, in Istanbul, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014.

(AP Photo/Filippo Monteforte, Pool)



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Hong Kong protesters clash with police; 40 arrested

KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Pro-democracy protesters clashed with police early Monday as they tried to surround Hong Kong government headquarters, stepping up their movement for genuine democratic reforms after camping out on the city's streets for more than two months. Repeating scenes that have become familiar since the movement began in late September, protesters carrying umbrellas — which have become symbols of the pro-democracy movement — battled police armed with pepper spray, batons and riot shields.

After student leaders told a big crowd rallying Sunday evening at the main protest site outside government headquarters that they would escalate their campaign, hundreds of protesters pushed past police lines on the other side of the complex from the protest site. They blocked traffic on a main road, but were stopped by po-



Police officers throw a pro-democracy protester on the main road outside government headquarters in Hong Kong Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014. Hundreds of pro-democracy protesters faced off with Hong Kong police late Sunday, stepping up their movement for genuine democratic reforms after being camped out on the city's streets for more than two months.

(AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

lice barricades from going down a side road to Chief Executive Leung Chun-Ying's office.

The protesters, many wearing surgical masks, hard hats and safety goggles and chanting "I want true

democracy," said they wanted to occupy the road to prevent Leung and other government officials from getting to work in the morning. At one point, police charged the crowd, aggressively pushing dem-

onstrators back with pepper spray and batons, after some protesters started pelting them with water bottles and other objects. They later fell back, letting demonstrators re-occupy the road.

Police Senior Superintendent Tsui Wai-hung said 40 protesters had been arrested, adding that authorities would not let the road, a major thoroughfare, remain blocked. "We will open up this road," he told reporters. Protesters said they were taking action to force a response from Hong Kong's government, which has made little effort to address their demands that it scrap a plan by China's Communist leaders to use a panel of Beijing-friendly elites to screen candidates for Hong Kong's leader in inaugural 2017 elections.

"The action was aimed at paralyzing the government's operation," said Alex Chow, secretary general of the Hong Kong Federation of Students. "The government has been stalling ... and we believe we need to focus pressure on the government headquarters, the symbol of the government's power."

The federation is one of two students groups that have played important roles in organizing the protest movement in the former British colony.

"I really want to have real elections for Hong Kong because I don't want the Chinese government to control us, our minds, anything," said protester Ernie Kwok, 21, a maintenance worker and part-time student. Authorities last week used an aggressive operation to clear out the protest camp on the busy streets of Hong Kong's crowded Mong Kok district, one of three protest zones around the semiautonomous city. □

Central African Republic: militia lays down arms

H. MARBOUA
Associated Press

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP) — A Christian militia in Central African Republic is abandoning its armed fight and transforming itself into a political party, according to a top official in the group. Central African Republic has been rocked by violence since the mostly Muslim Seleka rebel coalition toppled the president last

year. Widespread human rights abuses committed by Seleka led to the formation of the anti-Balaka Christian militia, unleashing sectarian fighting that has forced hundreds of thousands of Muslim civilians to flee to neighboring countries.

As a U.N. peacekeeping force tries to restore stability, the former Muslim rebels have largely been confined to their bases, but Christian fighters have con-

tinued to carry out attacks. Patrice Edouard Ngaissona, national coordinator of the anti-Balaka, announced Saturday that the militia would, from now on, only fight through political means. He said any member who carries out an attack will be brought to justice.

"I can assure you that the fighters have decided to turn this dark page of history that we have all lived

through in this country," he said a conference of militia members. "No anti-Balaka should use his weapons." The new party, the Central African Party for Unity and Development, will continue to press the militia's demands through political means, he said. Those include the release of militia members in prison and the reinstatement of the army salaries of militiamen who used to be in the military. □

Bahrain's pro-government bloc dominates vote

REEM KHALIFA

Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)

— Pro-government candidates took the majority of contested seats in Bahrain's parliamentary election on Sunday, although 13 independent Shiite candidates won mandates despite a boycott by the main opposition group, official results showed.

The Shiites, a majority in Sunni-ruled Bahrain, lost seats compared to the previous vote four years ago, in large

part due to the boycott by the al-Wefaq group. In total, only five candidates from established political organizations won seats — the lowest number since elections in 2006.

It was the country's first full parliamentary elections since Shiite-led protests against the Sunni monarchy erupted in February 2011.

Bahrain's parliament, or National Assembly, is comprised of 80 seats — 40 royally-appointed in the upper house and 40 elected seats

in the lower house. The lower house has limited powers to question ministers. Its members cannot pass laws unless the king signs off.

Among the winners were three women, all of them Shiite. Four seats also went to male candidates from Sunni Islamist blocs, including two from the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamic Menbar group.

The Western-allied Arab nation hosts the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet and is part of the U.S.-led coalition striking the Islamic State group in

Iraq and Syria.

The United States called the elections "an important opportunity to address the legitimate aspirations of all Bahrainis" even though some mainstream political groups did not participate, according to a statement released by State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki. She added that the U.S. encouraged the Bahraini government and political organizations "to continue to work towards national reconciliation" and "work in good faith to

resolve existing tensions."

Bahrain has been roiled by low-level unrest over the past nearly four years.

Shiites say the government is failing to enact political reforms and address other grievances in the wake of the protests.

Justice Minister Khalid Bin Ali hailed the elections as a sign that citizens want to be represented in parliament and not on the streets.

Al-Wefaq dismissed the elections as a "sham" and said voter turnout did not exceed 30 percent. □

Israel's government edges closer to early election

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP)

— Israel's fractious coalition government seems headed for a breakup that could spark new elections against a backdrop of security turmoil inside the country, disputes over nationalist legislation and a deep freeze in peace efforts with the Palestinians.

With little to gain from a vote that would come two years early, the country's top politicians could still pull back from a brink that none seem to relish. But the vitriolic attacks of recent days suggest another angry campaign could soon be at hand.

If that happens, it seems likely for now that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would be returned for a fourth term. Despite sagging popularity amid economic doldrums and increasing global isolation,

his divided opposition lacks a credible unifying figure.

Under Israel's political system, the leader is the elected parliament member who can show majority support in the 120-seat house.

Netanyahu's current coalition consists of a diverse array of partner parties that includes the centrist "Yesh Atid," which rose to power with promises of economic relief for Israel's struggling middle class;

"Jewish Home," a hard-line party closely identified with the West Bank settlement movement; "Hatnuah," which was elected on a platform pushing peace with the Palestinians; and "Yisrael Beiteinu," a nation-

alist party that seeks to redraw Israel's borders to rid the country of many Arab citizens.

His own Likud party is itself riven with disputes.

With little common ground, the competing factions have begun to squabble over a host of issues, including the budget, the collapse of U.S.-brokered peace talks, Jewish settlement construction and how to confront a wave of Palestinian attacks in Jerusalem.

The differences boiled over last week when Netanyahu pushed a piece of legislation defining Israel as "the Jewish state." Although its 1948 Declaration of Independence already does this, critics say enshrining it in law would undermine Israel's democratic character, enrage the country's Arab minority, and possibly enable future illiberal legislation. □



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, second left, chairs the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014. Israel's fractious coalition government seems headed for a breakup that could spark new elections against a backdrop of security turmoil inside the country, disputes over nationalist legislation and a deep freeze in peace efforts with the Palestinians.

(AP Photo/Ronen Zvulun, Pool)

Police: Iran hospital manager hurt in acid attack

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)

— Two attackers on a motorbike threw acid in the face of a Tehran hospital manager, police said Sunday, the latest in a string of such attacks that have mostly targeted women.

In a statement posted online, police said Dr. Siyand Anvari, the head of Ziaian Hospital, was attacked late Saturday while

on his way home.

Mahmoud Jabbarvand, one of the medics who treated him, was quoted by the semiofficial ISNA news agency as saying Anvari would not lose his vision.

Tehran police chief, Hossein Sajedinia, said the attackers have been arrested.

"Both acid attackers were identified and arrested within 24 hours.

One of them is a physician and the other is a student,"

the official IRNA news agency quoted Sajedinia as saying late Sunday. Sajedinia said the motive was related to their profession.

Meanwhile, IRNA reported Sunday that police had arrested a man for throwing acid at the face of his wife in Shahreza, a small town near Isfahan in central Iran.

Local police chief Col. Hamid Amirkhani described the attack as a "family dis-

pute" and IRNA said the woman suffered minor injuries.

At least four women were attacked with acid in Isfahan in October, prompting protests.

An ongoing police investigation into the Isfahan attacks suggests they were carried out by the same individual. Police have arrested four suspects in the case but say the attacker has not yet been identified.

Local media have suggested the women were targeted because they failed to adhere to the country's conservative dress code. Iranian women must cover themselves in public and wear headscarves. But Iran's police chief Gen.

Ismail Ahmadi Moghadam has dismissed the idea that the women were attacked because of the way they dressed. □

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Moscow:

Thousands protest against health care cuts

N. VASILYEVA
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — At least 5,000 Russians marched through Moscow on Sunday to protest against plans to lay off thousands of doctors and close hospitals in the capital amid a flagging economy.

Doctors, patients and other protesters braved the freezing cold to voice their opposition to an ongoing Moscow health care reform that could remove up to 10,000 doctors from their jobs and close 28 hospital and clinics by early next year.

The demonstration followed a previous doctors' rally early this month, which was the first social protest in Russia in a decade. The pressure on the country's budget has intensified as the economy is taking a hit from low oil prices, a drop in the value of the national currency and from Western sanctions over its role in the deadly conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Many of the protesters were dressed in white coats over their winter jackets. Some carried banners with the names of the hospitals that

are being closed.

"Save money on war, but not on doctors," one banner read.

Authorities defend the reform as a much-needed

implementing President Vladimir Putin's election pledge to increase doctors' salaries to twice that of the average employee by 2018.

the press in October.

"We're here to show our solidarity," said Tatyana Korshunova, 69, who works at a research center. "Nobody explained anything



Protesters carry a banner reading "Together for decent medicine!" as they march in a street in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014. At least 5,000 Russians marched on a frosty Sunday afternoon to protest plans to lay off thousands of doctors and close hospitals in Moscow against the backdrop of a flagging economy. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

step to modernize a decrepit Soviet-era health care system and close down hospitals that are deemed inefficient. They also say it as a step toward

Protesters lamented not only the cuts but also the secrecy that has surrounded the reform, the details of which only became public following a leak to

to us, there was no discussion (of the reform)."

Moscow psychiatrist Dmitry Albertovich, who would not give his last name for fear of reprisal, said

FARC militants free captured General Alzate

JOSHUA GOODMAN
JUAN HERNANDEZ

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombia's largest rebel group has freed an army general and two others whose capture led President Juan Manuel Santos to suspend peace talks.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia handed over Gen. Ruben Alzate and his companions — an army corporal and military lawyer — to a humanitarian mission led by the International Red Cross early Sunday morning. The group was then shuttled by helicopter to a military base near Medellin, from where they'll head later on to Bogota.

Alzate was the highest-ranking military officer captured by the rebels in 50 years of fighting and the incident immediately plunged into crisis peace talks taking place in Cuba. Determined not to scuttle two years of slow but steady progress, the rebels dispatched from Havana one of their top commanders, a member of the ruling secretariat known by his alias Pastor Alape, to oversee the handover deep inside the jungles of western Colombia.

"I'm infinitely happy," Claudia Farfan, wife of the US-trained counterinsurgent expert, told The Associated Press after receiving a phone call from the president informing her that her husband was safe and in good health. "I can smile again."

Santos had conditioned the resumption of peace talks on the safe return of the general's group as well as two rank-and-file soldiers taken during a firefight in a separate incident earlier this month. □

Coalition airstrikes pound IS stronghold in Syria

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S.-led coalition warplanes carried out as many as 30 airstrikes overnight against Islamic State militants in and around the group's de facto capital in northeastern Syria, activists said Sunday. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the strikes targeted IS positions in the city of Raqqa as well as the Division 17 air base, which the militants seized earlier this year from government forces.

The monitoring group, which relies on a network of activists inside Syria, reported at least 30 coalition strikes in all. The Local Coordination Committees, an activist collective, also confirmed the airstrikes. Neither group had casualty figures.

There was no immediate confirmation from the U.S. military.

The American-led coalition began targeting Islamic State militants in Syria in September, expanding an

aerial campaign already hitting the extremist group in Iraq.

Many of the U.S. airstrikes in Syria have targeted IS fighters who are attacking the predominantly Kurdish town of Kobani on the Turkish border.

The Observatory said that at least 50 IS militants were killed on Saturday and early Sunday in clashes with Kurds and in coalition airstrikes. Eleven Kurdish fighters were also killed, according to the Observa-

tory.

Idris Nassan, a Kurdish official from Kobani, said by telephone that tens of IS militants were killed, but he did not have a concrete figure. IS has been attacking Kobani since mid-September. The militants' offensive has bogged down, and the Syrian Kurds — backed by their Iraqi brethren with heavy weapons — appear to have seized the momentum and to have begun pushing the jihadis back. □



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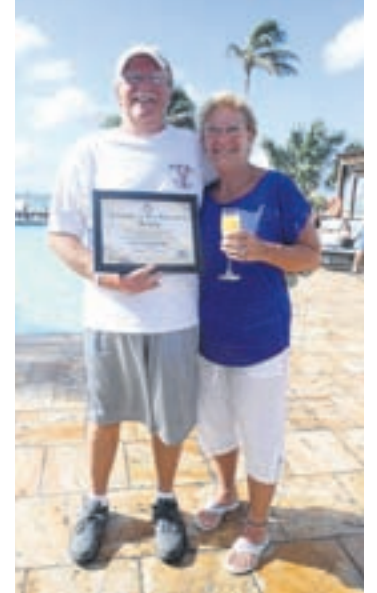
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The honorees were Mr. William (Bill) and Mrs. Sharon Egan of Bay Village, Ohio and Mr. Edward and Mrs. Gail Tripp from West Islip,

New York. Both couples are loyal guests of the Divi Resorts and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the



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Marc Hernandez likes to go wild when it comes to his cooking. Caught in the morning, served at night is the true Bugaloe way, maybe this explains its popularity from the start. Crazy Fish Monday is served from 5.30 p.m. till 10 p.m. Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is open daily from 9 a.m. till midnight. Start your day of right with a delicious cappuccino, or walk in to enjoy a casual lunch in between sunbathing. A few nights



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PALM BEACH - The Alhambra Casino is excited to announce that they are now celebrating their 30th Anniversary! In honor of the occasion, from now until December 19th, new players will be announced as lucky winners in their 30th Anniversary Campaign every Friday!

Last Friday, Alhambra casino announced their first winners: the first prize was Afl. 1,250, the second prize was Afl. 750, and the third prize Afl. 500! For the following Friday drawings, the prizes are even bigger, with the Grand Prize Drawing being held on December 19th!

The Alhambra Casino also made exciting changes to their point system recently, offering more and more super benefits for



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A variety of great lounge music played all night while the VIP guests mingled and sipped "Bellinis" and a variety of cocktails inspired on the 1920's. The famous Harry's bar of Venice Italy founded in 1923 was the source of inspiration for these famous "Bellinis" served to all the guests upon entering the venue. The delicious hors d'oeuvres and catering were all coordinated by Inge van Roon, Chef Gerard and a great staff from the Divi resorts. The Aruba Bally Boutique grand opening was honored in this special occasion by having the visit of Mr. Mimmo Marriotini who is the CEO Global Americas, Mr. Keith Barnett, the Director of Latin-America, and Mr. Adam Mccollum, the Director of Marketing. Mr. Marriotini, along with co-owners Kelly Alwani, George Valvis, and Manoj Alwani did the honors of the ribbon cutting ceremony. All invited guest left the party with great memories, big smiles and a specially designed Bally souvenir.



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San Antonio Spurs' Manu Ginobili (20) drives to the basket past Boston Celtics' Brandon Bass during the second half of San Antonio's 111-89 win in an NBA basketball game in Boston, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014.

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Danny Green scored 18 points to lead the San Antonio Spurs to their seventh straight win as coach Gregg Popovich returned from a two-game absence to lead them to a 111-89 win over the Boston Celtics on Sunday. Leading 80-77 with 10 minutes left, the Spurs went on a 14-2 run to take a 94-79 lead with 6:11 left on a layup by Cory Joseph. After Jeff Green made a free throw for Boston, cutting the lead to 94-80, Aron Baynes beat the 24-second clock with a 3-pointer then made a layup for a 99-80 lead with 4:36 to go. Popovich returned for the opener of a four-game road trip after missing two games following an undisclosed minor medical procedure. Boris Diaw had 15 points and Tim Duncan added 14 for the Spurs.

The Celtics were led by Jeff Green with 16 points and Evan Turner with 12 as they dropped to 1-7 in their last eight games. Rajon Rondo finished with only two points and missed both of his free throws. He has made just 9 of 30 all season. **BULLS 102, NETS 84** **NEW YORK (AP)** — Jimmy Butler had 26 points and Pau Gasol had 25 points and 13 rebounds, leading Chicago past Brooklyn Nets. Rookie Bojan Bogdanovic led the Nets with 13 points and reserve Jarret Jack added 12. Derrick Rose had 14 points and reserve Nikola Mirotic chipped in 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls, who capped a seven-game, 14-day road trip with their second straight win and finished 4-3 overall. Chicago's United Center

Popovich returns, Spurs top Celtics 111-89

had been reserved for the annual circus show, forcing the Bulls on the road. **WARRIORS 104, PISTONS 93** **AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP)** — Draymond Green scored 20 points and Stephen Curry added 16 points and 10 assists as Golden State beat Detroit for their ninth straight victory.

Marreese Speights added 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors (14-2). The Pistons (3-14) have lost eight in a row, the longest streak of Stan Van Gundy's coaching career, and have matched his career worst at 11 games under .500. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope led De-

troit with 23 points. Van Gundy broke up his usual three-post lineup against the smaller Warriors, starting Kyle Singler at small forward and bringing Greg Monroe off the bench. It didn't work. Monroe, Andre Drummond and Josh Smith shot a combined 12 for 38. □

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Members of the St. Louis Rams raise their arms in awareness of the events in Ferguson, Mo., as they walk onto the field during introductions before an NFL football game against the Oakland Raiders, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, in St. Louis. Associated Press

St. Louis Rams raise arms in apparent show of solidarity

R.B. FALLSTROM
AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Five St. Louis Rams players stood with their arms raised in an apparent show of solidarity for Ferguson protesters before trotting onto the field for pregame introductions. A Rams spokesman said Sunday the team was not aware the gesture had been planned before the game against Oakland. Wide receivers Tavon Aus-

tin and Kenny Britt came out together first, with the move obscured by a smoke machine in the upper reaches of the Edward Jones Dome. Stedman Bailey, Jared Cook and Chris Givens — all of whom are black — then came out and stood together with arms raised.

After Tre Mason scored on an 8-yard run to make it 45-0 in the fourth quarter, he and Britt raised their

hands together.

There have been riots, looting and buildings burned in Ferguson since a grand jury declined Monday to indict police officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of unarmed Michael Brown in August.

Across the street from the stadium, about 75 protesters gathered in the second half as about 30 police wearing riot gear watched from a safe distance. □



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Serena enjoys IPTL but ends up on losing side

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Serena Williams made a much-awaited appearance at the franchise-based International Premier Tennis League on Sunday but could not lift Singapore Slammers as her team succumbed to a third straight defeat in the first leg.

"It wasn't easy but I had a lot of fun," the top-ranked Williams said after playing against home team Manila Mavericks in front of a lively crowd of 12,000 at the Mall of Asia Arena. "I love the team atmosphere. If you lose a match, everyone is still positive and that's what I love about it."

Williams, who did not play on the opening two days, defeated Manila Mavericks' Kirsten Flipkens 6-3 in the women's singles but lost the mixed doubles partnering Lleyton Hewitt as Andy Murray and Flipkens combined better for a 6-1 win.

Manila Mavericks beat Singapore Slammers 27-19 in the new fast-paced team format in which results are decided by aggregating games won from five one-set matches — men's and women's singles, men's doubles, mixed doubles and legends singles - rather than the match results.

Murray, who helped garner the first victory in three matches for Manila Mavericks, will not be available for the remaining three legs of the \$1 million event to be played in Singapore, New Delhi and Dubai.

The team on a roll was the Indian Aces, which won all three matches despite the absence of Roger Federer and Pete Sampras in this leg.

Novak Djokovic, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, Andre Agassi, Goran Ivanisevic, Maria Sharapova and Ana Ivanovic are other prominent past and present players who feature in different



Singapore Slammers Serena Williams, left, in action with Lleyton Hewitt against Manila Mavericks Kirsten Flipkens and Andy Murray during their Mixed Doubles match at the IPTL (International Premier Tennis League) on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014 at the Mall of Asia Arena in suburban Pasay city, south of Manila, Philippines.

Associated Press

legs of the tournament.

The IPTL format consists of one-set matches that can be decided by a four-minute shootout at 5-5

rather than the traditional tiebreaker. There are also 'power points' which give players a chance to double up on a point in each

match nominated before receiving serve. Other novelties include time-outs and doing away with advantage points. □



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Son: Gordie Howe comfortable as he recovers

DETROIT (AP) — Gordie Howe is comfortable as he makes a long recovery from two strokes, but the hockey great can't walk and has limited speech, one of his sons said Sunday. Mark Howe said his 86-year-old father's vital signs are good and he's aware of the reasons for his condition. He added that an epidural reduced pain stemming from spinal surgery last summer.

"He's unable to walk and his speech is very minimal," said Mark Howe, like his father a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame. "After his first stroke, within a week, he was up to walking 40 to 50 feet."

"They did his first physical therapy after the epidural. He tried standing twice over 20 minutes and it took every ounce of energy he

had and totally drained him." Gordie Howe suffered what his children called a serious stroke in late October and another in early November. □



Fans wave "Get Well Gordie" signs for Detroit Red Wings legend Gordie Howe during the first period of an NHL hockey between the Detroit Red Wings and Los Angeles Kings Friday, Oct. 31, 2014, in Detroit. Howe suffered a stroke on Sunday.

Associated Press

Ohio State player dead of self-inflicted gunshot

By RUSTY MILLER and LISA CORNWELL

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — An Ohio State football player who disappeared shortly after sending a text message about his concussions was found dead Sunday in a dumpster, apparently of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said.

Police spokesman Sgt. Rich Weiner said police received a call around 2:30 p.m. from someone reporting a body found in the trash bin. Weiner said a woman and her son apparently were looking for items in the dumpster when they found the body. □



In this file image taken on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013, and provided by Ohio State University, college football player Kosta Karageorge poses for a photo in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press

Datsyuk scores twice, Red Wings beat Canucks 5-3

By SCOTT HELD

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The streaking Detroit Red Wings were able to laugh about a power outage at aging Joe Louis Arena.

Pavel Datsyuk scored twice and Detroit beat the Vancouver Canucks 5-3 on Sunday for their fourth straight victory.

About a third of Joe Louis Arena, including the Vancouver zone, went dark 29 seconds into the game after a minor power failure. The game was delayed 33 minutes.

"That's the beauty of the Joe," Niklas Kronwall said about the arena that opened in 1980. "It's been around for a long time. It's kind of the charm of it. You never know what's going to happen."

Kronwall, Danny DeKeyser and Gustav Nyquist also scored, Henrik Zetterberg had two assists and Jimmy Howard made 30 saves for Detroit.

Linden Vey scored twice, and Shawn Matthias added a goal for Vancouver, which spent a lot of time in the Detroit zone in the final 20 minutes.

"It's disappointing," Matthias said. "You look at the third period, we dominated them. All the lines were working and all the lines were creating chances."

The Red Wings appeared to have the game in hand after going to the third up 3-1 but the Canucks hung around and twice made it one-goal game.

"I didn't think we were near as good as we can be," Detroit coach Mike Babcock said. "I thought we turned over some pucks and backed in a bit



Detroit Red Wings center Stephen Weiss, left, reacts after teammate center Pavel Datsyuk scored against Vancouver Canucks goalie Ryan Miller (30) during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Detroit, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014.

Associated Press

but we did enough good things to win."

Canucks coach Willie Desjardins begged to differ.

"They were better than us," he said.

"They were really strong in the corners and in their breakouts."

Kronwall opened the scoring at 3:15 of the first period, beating Ryan Miller with a slap shot, and Nyquist made it 2-0 midway through the period with a one-timer on a power play. Vey scored on a power play at 2:37 of the second, and Datsyuk countered late in the period with a power-play goal that ap-

peared to hit Canucks forward Nick Bonino's skate before crossing the line.

Matthias and DeKeyser swapped goals early in the third before Vey added his second.

Datsyuk had an empty-net goal in the final minute. Miller made 25 saves in just his fourth loss of the season. The loss ended Vancouver's three-game winning streak.

The Red Wings played the third period without forward Justin Abdelkader after he left the game with a shoulder injury. Babcock said he did not believe it was serious. □

AFC and NFC races tighten with Packers' win over Patriots

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) —

Aaron Rodgers threw for two touchdowns and Eddie Lacy ran for key yards in the fourth quarter as the Green Bay Packers fended off the New England Patriots 26-21 Sunday in a high-profile matchup between Super Bowl contenders.

Rodgers bested Tom Brady in the first meeting between the star quarterbacks as starters. Rodgers connected with Richard Rodgers and Jordy Nelson for long touchdowns.

Leading by five, the defense held firm late for the Packers (9-3). Mike Daniels and Mike Neal combined to sack Brady on third down for a 9-yard loss, and kicker Stephen Gostkowski pushed a 47-yard field-goal attempt wide right with 2:40 left.

The Packers sealed it after Rodgers converted to Cobb on third-and-4 with the Patriots out of timeouts. Brady finished with two touchdown passes to Brandon LaFell for New England (9-3), which had its seven-game winning streak snapped. The second score came from 15 yards early in the fourth quarter to get within 23-21.

The lead could have been wider for the Packers if not for some hiccups in the red zone.

Green Bay settled for four field goals from Mason Crosby of 35 yards or less, including a 28-yarder to make it a five-point lead with 8:41 left. That kick came after rookie Davante Adams dropped a potential touchdown pass on third-and-5 from the New England 10.

Bengals 14, Buccaneers 13
TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Andy Dalton ran for one touchdown and threw to A.J. Green for another, helping the Bengals overcome numerous mistakes. Dalton shrugged off three first-half interceptions, and the Bengals (8-3-1) weathered 10 penalties and an ill-advised onside kick that cost them momentum after taking the lead in the second half to win on the road for the third consecutive week. That's a fran-



Green Bay Packers' Clay Matthews celebrates after the New England Patriots missed a field goal attempt during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, in Green Bay, Wis. Associated Press

chise first that seemed improbable following a lopsided home loss to Cleveland a month ago.

The Bengals lead the tightest division race in the NFL, with a 1½-game lead over each of their AFC North rivals — all of whom lost.

Tampa Bay (2-10) threatened in the closing minutes. However, a 21-yard completion that would have put the Bucs in field goal range was overturned after a replay review confirmed the Bucs had 12 men on the field on the play.

The ball was moved back to the 46, an additional 14 seconds were added to the clock, and Tampa Bay turned over the ball on downs.

Chargers 34, Ravens 33
BALTIMORE (AP) — Philip Rivers capped a frantic drive with a 1-yard touchdown pass to Eddie Royal with 38 seconds to go. The Chargers (8-4) trailed 30-20 with 6:13 remaining and 33-27 with 2:22 left before Rivers brought them back.

Following a pass interference call against Anthony Levine in the end zone, Rivers hit Royal to conclude an 80-yard march to the Chargers' third straight win. Baltimore (7-5) lost at home

in November for the first time since 2009. The Ravens were 11-0 all-time at home against West Coast teams. Rivers went for 34 for 45 for 383 yards and three touchdowns, two to Keenan Allen.

Joe Flacco threw for two scores for Baltimore, which wasted four field goals from Justin Tucker and 106 yards rushing from Justin Forsett. Saints 35, Steelers 32

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Drew Brees threw five touchdowns for the ninth time in his career as the Saints dominated the sloppy Steelers.

Kenny Stills caught five passes for a career-high 162 yards and a score as the Saints (5-7) ended a three-game losing streak by restoring a little bit of respectability and a sense of order to the NFC South.

The Steelers (7-5) kept New Orleans tight end Jimmy Graham without a catch, but it hardly mattered. Brees worked over Pittsburgh's secondary anyway. Ben Watson, Marques Colston, Erik Loring and Nick Toon hauled in touchdowns.

Ben Roethlisberger passed for 435 yards and two touchdowns, but also

threw two interceptions for the Steelers.

Bills 26, Browns 10

ORCHARD PARK, New York (AP) — Quarterback Kyle Orton and defensive end Jerry Hughes scored touchdowns 10 seconds apart in the third quarter.

Orton put the Bills ahead 7-3 with a 3-yard pass to Chris Hogan. Buffalo's defense scored on the next play from scrimmage when Hughes stripped the ball from running back Terrence West, and returned the fumble 18 yards.

It was too deep of a hole for Browns rookie quarterback Johnny Manziel to dig out of. Taking over with 12:01 left after starter Brian Hoyer threw his second interception, Manziel capped an eight-play, 80-yard drive with a 10-yard run that cut Buffalo's lead to 20-10.

The Bills (7-5) won their second straight. Cleveland (7-5) lost for only the second time in six games.

Falcons 29, Saints 18

ATLANTA (AP) — Julio Jones had a career day, catching 10 passes for 189 yards and a touchdown to keep the Falcons in first place in the NFC South.

Arizona (9-3) still leads the NFC West after its second

straight loss, but its lead over defending Super Bowl champion Seattle dwindled to a single game.

More troubling for the Cardinals, they had gone more than 11 quarters without an offensive touchdown until a meaningless score with just over a minute remaining.

Steven Jackson broke off a 55-yard run — his longest since 2009 — to set up a touchdown on the Falcons' opening possession. Jones hauled in a 32-yard scoring pass, and Matt Bryant kicked a career-best five field goals for the Falcons (5-7), who matched New Orleans' 35-32 win at Pittsburgh to remain tied for the top spot in the NFC South.

Texans 45, Titans 21

HOUSTON (AP) — Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for a franchise-record six touchdowns and DeAndre Hopkins had a career-best 238 yards receiving and two scores. Fitzpatrick returned to the lineup after being benched for two games for Ryan Mallett, who suffered a season-ending chest injury last week.

J.J. Watt helped out in the win, too. He had his third touchdown reception, two sacks, forced and recovered a fumble for Houston (6-6).

Tennessee's Zach Mettenberger injured his right shoulder playing behind a makeshift offensive line missing three starters. Jake Locker took over in the third quarter and threw for 91 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions for the Titans (2-10), who have lost six straight.

Rams 52, Raiders 0

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Tre Mason scored two long touchdowns and Shaun Hill accounted for three TDs in the rout. St. Louis had an out-of-nowhere 38-point first half that tied for second biggest in franchise history.

Mason had 113 yards rushing on six carries in the half with an 89-yard score, plus a 35-yard jaunt on a screen pass that opened the scoring. Hill was 12 for 15 for 178 yards and two TDs and ran for a 2-yard score. □

Spieth wins Australian Open in 1st trip Down Under

By DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

SYDNEY (AP) -- Jordan Spieth played the best round of an already impressive career with an 8-under 63 on Sunday to win the Australian Open by six strokes, making his first trip Down Under a successful one.

Spieth's 72-hole total of 13-under 271 on the tough, windy Australian Golf Club made him the first American to win the Australian Open since Brad Faxon in 1993, when the 21-year-old Spieth was four months old. "It's the best round I have ever played, especially considering the conditions," Spieth said. "It was just kind of one of those rounds when you're in the zone and you're not sure what you're at. It's nice that it came on a Sunday." Spieth birdied four holes on the front nine - three of them in a row - to lead by three strokes after nine holes, then made light of the challenging, windy conditions by adding four more on the back nine, never threatening to lose his lead.

"You don't want any kind of crack in the door to be open and I felt like we kept it shut from the front nine

on," Spieth said.

Spieth's score was a record for the revamped Jack Nicklaus-designed layout which was being played as a par 71 for the first time. On Friday, Jamie Lovemark of the United States shot 65. Adam Scott shot 71 and finished fifth, nine strokes behind. Defending champion Rory McIlroy, who shot 76 on Saturday, finished with a 72 and was 2-over, 15 strokes behind Spieth.

Three Australians who finished closest to Spieth earned trips to next July's British Open. The Australian Open is the first qualifying tournament for the 2015 Open Championship and offers three spots to the top finishers not already exempt.

Rod Pamplung shot 68 to finish second, while former two-time Australian Open champion Greg Chalmers (71) and Brett Rumford (70) were third and fourth, respectively. All three will play at St. Andrews next year.

Gusty northeasterly breezes played havoc all week with scores, and only eight players finished under par. Chalmers and Spieth were tied for the lead at 6-under after four holes, but Spi-

eth birdied the par-5 fifth where Chalmers made bogey for a two-shot swing. The American also birdied the sixth and seventh holes, made a fine par save on the ninth, then did the same on the 10th from about five feet, pumping his fist as he edged closer to the title and the Stonehaven Cup trophy.

It was Spieth's first win of 2014, and second of his pro career - he won on the John Deere Classic in a playoff on the PGA Tour in 2013. Although he hadn't won this year, he was runner-up in the Masters and had eight top-10 finishes in 24 PGA tournaments.

He was reminded that last year's Australian Open win by McIlroy was his only victory that year, and the Northern Irishman went on to win two majors and have an outstanding 2014.

"If I had the follow-up year that Rory had this year, I'd be pleased this time next year," Spieth said.

McIlroy's 76 all but ended the defense of the title he memorably won in 2014 with a birdie on the last hole to deny Scott the Australian Triple Crown.

"It's been tough all weekend," McIlroy said. "I was



Jordan Spieth of the U.S. holds the Stonehaven Cup as he celebrates winning the Australian Open golf championship in Sydney, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014.

Associated Press

trying to get something going but with the pin positions and the wind, it was just very hard to get the ball close to the hole. It just wasn't meant to be this year."

There were tributes around the golf course Saturday and Sunday for Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes, who died Thursday after

being hit by a ball during a match at the nearby Sydney Cricket Ground.

The number 63 was used in many of them, as that was the number of runs Hughes had scored before he was fatally injured. Spieth provided the final reminder - and an unintentional tribute - by finishing with a round of 63. □

Tide reaches top of AP poll for 7th straight year

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer
Alabama is No. 1 in The Associated Press college football poll for the first time this season, replacing undefeated Florida State in a vote that was about as close as it could get.

The Crimson Tide (11-1) received 25 of a possible 59 first-place votes from the media panel and 1,426 points. The Seminoles (12-0) have 29 first-place votes and 1,423 points.

The last time the No. 2 team had more first-place votes than the No. 1 team this late in the season was Nov. 25, 1968, when No. 1 Ohio State had 21 1/2 first-places votes to Southern California's 24 1/2.

Alabama is No. 1 for the 72nd time overall and first

since it lost last year's Iron Bowl. The Tide beat Auburn 55-44 on Saturday.

It is also the seventh straight season the Crimson Tide has been No. 1 at some point, the longest such streak since Miami from 1986-92.

Florida State is the first team to lose the No. 1 ranking twice in a season since Penn State in 1997.

The last time a No. 1 team had a loss and No. 2 was undefeated this late in the season was Nov. 27, 1993, when Florida State (11-1) held the top spot and Nebraska (11-0) was No. 2.

Those Seminoles, who lost to Notre Dame a few weeks prior, went on to beat Nebraska in the Orange Bowl and win the national title.

No. 3 Oregon received five first-place votes in the latest poll. TCU jumped two spot to No. 4. Baylor slipped one to No. 5 and Ohio State moved up one to No. 6. No. 7 is Michigan State, followed by Arizona and Kansas State. Mississippi State fell six places to No. 10 after losing to Mississippi.

Alabama is the third team to hold the No. 1 ranking this season following Florida State, which was preseason No. 1, and Mississippi State, which held the top spot for five weeks.

The Tide and Seminoles played conference championship games on Saturday and both, along with Oregon, seem to have a clear path to the College Football Playoff if they win. □



Alabama quarterback Blake Sims (6) celebrates after the second half of the Iron Bowl NCAA college football game against Auburn, Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014, in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Alabama won 55-44.

Associated Press

Gift Guide: Lots of tablet choices, oh my!

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Time for a tablet?

People tend to hold onto tablets longer than smartphones, so take time to weigh your options. A major consideration is what phone you or your gift recipient already has. Although it's possible for Android owners to have Apple's iPads, for instance, there are advantages to sticking within the same system. You often can buy apps just once and share them across both devices, and you don't need to learn two different systems. Here are some buying tips organized by system. Prices listed are for base models. You can typically spend more for additional storage or LTE cellular connectivity.

This Oct. 16, 2014, file photo shows Apple CEO Tim Cook introducing the new Apple iPad Air 2 during an event at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif. Associated Press

APPLE'S iOS



The iPad remains top of the line among tablets. The selection of apps designed specifically for it is unmatched. Those who

already have iPhones will appreciate the ability to start email and other tasks on one device and finish on the other. You can even make phone calls from iPads, if you have an iPhone on the same Wi-Fi network.

The downside is the \$499 price tag for the latest full-size model, the iPad Air 2. Many Android tablets are cheaper. You do get a light and skinny device for the price, with a camera that matches the iPhone's 8 megapixels (though the iPad still lacks a flash). The new Air also has a fingerprint sensor to bypass security passcodes and to authorize online purchases using Apple Pay. It won't work with in-store payments, though.

If you are on a budget or want a smaller device, consider last year's iPad Mini 2 for \$299. This year's Mini doesn't have many improvements over last year's model, except for the fingerprint and Apple Pay capabilities. The convenience might not be worth spending more for the \$399 iPad Mini 3.

You might consider putting the savings toward a mid-

more. Or get 128 GB for \$200 more than the base model.

This July 31, 2014, file photo shows a visitor trying out Samsung Electronics Co.'s 10.5-inch Galaxy Tab S tablet during an event in Tokyo.

Associated Press

GOOGLE'S ANDROID



Android phones and tablets don't let you switch back and forth as easily as Apple devices do. The advantage of sticking with an Android tablet for Android phone owners is having a unified library of apps.

Samsung's Galaxy Tab S is the best of the Android tablets I've tried. The display uses a technology called AMOLED to produce colors that pop out as you view video or browse the Web. But the Tab S also comes with a high price tag — \$500 for the full-size model and \$400 for the smaller one.

Samsung does offer an even-pricier Pro series, with screens of up to 12.2 inches diagonally, but that's really aimed at professionals. Full-size models tend to be nine or 10 inches, while mini models are seven or eight inches. At the small and cheap end, Samsung offers the 7-inch Galaxy Tab 4 for about \$180. Book lovers can choose a Nook edition, made in partnership with Barnes & Noble.

Google's \$399 Nexus 9 has the advantage of running

an Android version that's closest to Google's vision. Samsung and other manufacturers typically add their own twists, which can confuse consumers. The Nexus does have a wireless chip for in-store mobile payments using Google Wallet, if you feel like waving it around in the checkout line.

I'm including Amazon's Fire

Until Windows 10 comes out next year, there's a huge divide between Windows phones and Windows tablets. Apps aren't compatible, and Windows tablets have more in common with Windows desktops and laptops. A Windows tablet is best suited for someone looking to replace a PC. In fact, many Windows tablets are just

HDX tablets under Android, even though the system's been modified so much that there's little resemblance. App selection isn't as good as what you get on purer Android devices. But Amazon is able to add such features as one-button access to live video help. It is great for first-time tablet owners and comes at a nice price — the full-size model for \$379 and the smaller one for \$179.

This product image provided by Microsoft shows the Surface Pro 3.

Associated Press

MICROSOFT'S WINDOWS

laptops with detachable keyboards.

There are too many models to list, so I'll use Microsoft's own Surface Pro 3 as an example. You type on a touch screen or attach a \$130 keyboard cover. The Surface itself starts at \$799, though configurations go as high as \$1,949 for those serious about ditching the PC. The Surface's built-in kickstand can be adjusted to a range of positions, some better for desks and others for the lap. The best thing about Windows tablets is their ability to run regular Windows software, such as Office and Photoshop. Other tablets have, at best, a light version. □



Oil plunge is threat and boon to global economies

The Associated Press

A renewed plunge in oil prices is a worrying sign of weakness in the global economy that could shake governments dependent on oil revenues. Yet it is also a bonus for consumers as prices fall at the pump, giving individuals more spending money and lowering costs for many businesses.

The latest slide follows OPEC's decision to leave its production target at 30 million barrels a day. Member nations of the cartel are worried they'll lose market share if they lower production.

Partly because of the shale oil boom in the U.S., the world is awash in oil at a time when demand from major economies is weak — so prices are falling. Citibank analysts wrote in a report Thursday that global supplies exceed demand by about 700,000 barrels a day now.

The price of U.S. crude oil dropped \$7.54 a barrel, or 10 percent, to \$66.15 Friday and is down 38 percent since hitting \$107 in June. Brent crude, an international benchmark, fell 3 percent to \$70.15 a barrel on Friday.

Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service, expects the price to fall by another \$5 or \$10 a barrel before stopping. "It's that kind of rout," he said.

Overall, the slide is a boon for consumers in oil-importing regions like Asia, Europe and North America. But there are also some possible negatives.

NORTH AMERICA: The U.S. economy will receive an outsized benefit from lower oil prices because the U.S. is the world's largest oil consumer.

U.S. consumers have been surprised and delighted at the lowest gasoline prices since 2010. Drivers in some low-cost states such as South Carolina, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas could see prices below \$2, according to Kloza.

The U.S. national average was \$2.79 on Friday. Kloza

expects gas to eventually be a full \$1 per gallon below its June peak of about \$3.70 a gallon. That would save typical households \$60 a month for those that

southern Ontario, gasoline could fall below the important psychological barrier of \$1 per liter.

The oil companies propelling a production boom

OPEC's motivation for declining to cut its own production.

WESTERN EUROPE: Many of Europe's economies are

from 1.53 euros per liter (\$7.16 per gallon) at the start of September to 1.42 euros per liter (\$6.69 per gallon) this week, according to the ADAC motoring association.

Declining fuel prices also, however, add to one of the eurozone's biggest headaches: low inflation. Weak inflation makes it harder for troubled economies like Greece to reduce debt. It is also a problem for the European Central Bank, which wants to boost inflation from just 0.3 percent currently to around 2 percent. The few European producing countries — mainly Britain and Norway in the North Sea — face a drop in revenues that could balance out the positives of cheaper fuel.

RUSSIA: Russia gets about 50 percent of its state revenue from oil exports, so the government's concerns are clear. The national economy is already sliding into recession under the impact of Western sanctions and investors are pulling money out.

For Russian consumers, the outlook is mixed. Prices at the pump have actually gone up because a drop in the national currency, the ruble, has increased inflation. In local money, 95-octane gasoline costs 35.99 rubles a liter (\$2.8 a gallon) in Moscow, up from 35.53 per liter two months ago. □



A truck servicing the oil field turns into traffic in snowy Williston, N.D., Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014. A winter storm days before the Thanksgiving holiday resulted in snow and icy roads in the oil patch city. But in the frenetic pace of life in the oil patch, work continued despite adverse weather conditions.

(AP Photo/Josh Wood)

burn 60 gallons of fuel.

"It's a nice easy, calculation," Kloza says. "These are numbers that we would have regarded three or four months ago as something from the lunatic fringe."

The bottom should come between \$2.50 and \$2.70 a gallon, Kloza says.

Canadian consumers are also catching a break. In some regions, such as

in Canada and the U.S. won't be so happy. Crude produced in Canadian oil sands, deep offshore in the Gulf of Mexico and in some U.S. onshore shale formations is some of the most expensive oil to produce in the world.

Drillers will have to cut back at least some activity. Forcing this kind of slowdown may have been part of

net importers of oil, so lower prices are likely to give a welcome, if small, boost to growth. Cheaper energy reduces costs for industry and puts more money in consumers' pockets. That will be particularly useful in the 18-nation eurozone, where unemployment is high.

In Germany, the price of Super E10 fuel has fallen

HSBC accounts identified in alleged tax evasion

DEBORA REY

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Argentina's top cable TV operator, a former professional soccer player and a lawmaker are among the holders of some 4,000 secret Swiss bank accounts used to evade taxes, the Argentine tax agency said this weekend.

The agency's revelation came shortly after it charged HSBC bank with helping Argentines evade taxes by stashing about \$3 billion in the secret accounts.

It said that the money was

handled by intermediaries through a network of offshore accounts and that it got its information from France, where HSBC was placed under formal investigation last week for possibly aiding tax evasion.

The banking company has also been charged in Belgium with organized fiscal fraud.

The Telam state news agency published the tax agency's list of the account owners this weekend.

It includes cable TV operator Cablevision and executives at Grupo Clarin, Argentina's largest media

group. It also includes opposition lawmaker Alfonso Prat-Gay, a former member of the Velez Sarsfield soccer club, executives at HSBC Argentina and a local nongovernmental group that fights against multiple sclerosis.

HSBC has denied any wrongdoing and several of those named Friday also rejected the allegations.

"Cablevision informs that the accounts of the company ... mentioned in the named lists have been entirely declared and were informed to the (tax agency) in all its sworn statement,"

the cable television company, which is owned by the Grupo Clarin conglomerate, said in a statement. Lawmaker Prat Gay said he also abides by all Argentine rules.

"I was never the owner or beneficiary of a bank account in Switzerland," Prat Gay said on his official Facebook account.

"All my assets have been declared" to the tax agency.

Officials at the tax agency were not available to comment or to provide the list, despite repeated emails and calls. □

Mutts



6 Chix



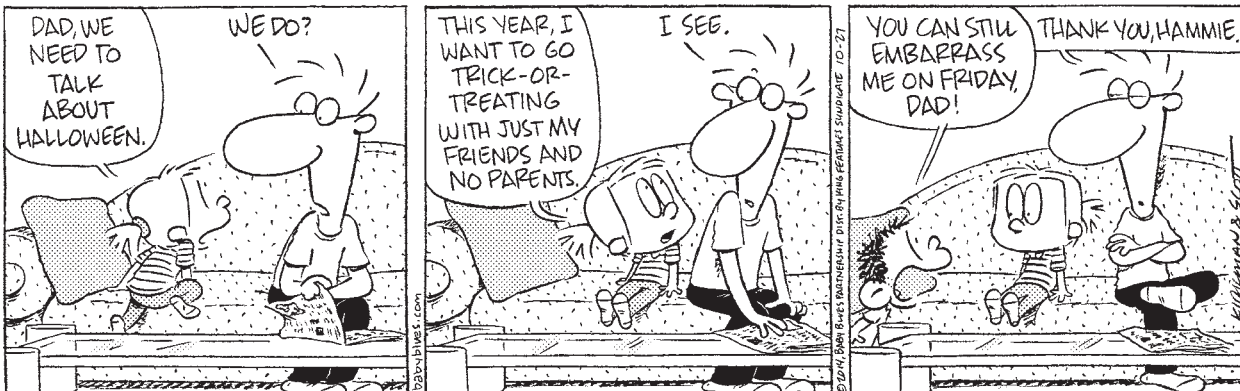
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4			5		9	2	
3	6						1	4
		5		1	4			7
			8		2	1		
1		2				6		3
		4	1		9			
9			5	2		4		
6	5						3	1
	2	3		7			9	

Difficulty Level ★

10/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

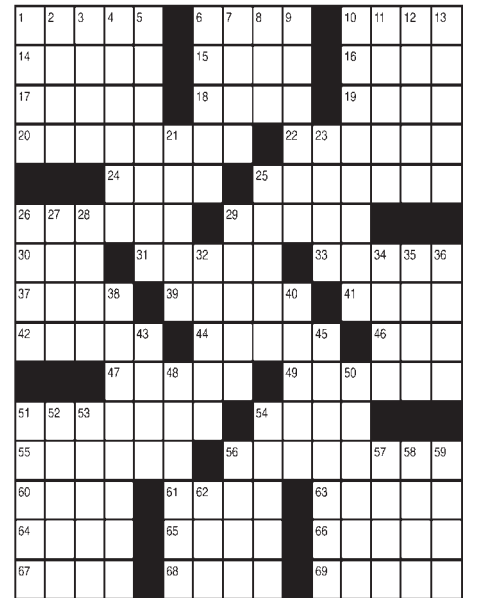
3	6	9	8	2	1	5	4	7
2	1	5	6	4	7	3	8	9
8	4	7	5	9	3	1	2	6
4	3	1	2	5	9	6	7	8
7	8	6	1	3	4	9	5	2
9	5	2	7	6	8	4	3	1
6	7	4	3	1	2	8	9	5
1	2	3	9	8	5	7	6	4
5	9	8	4	7	6	2	1	3

ACROSS

- Morley of "60 Minutes"
- Close noisily
- "_ Heartache"; country rock hit
- In the know
- Tiny bit
- _ up; sick
- Deadly
- Departs
- Was dishonest
- Vision
- Recoil in fear or disgust
- Gabor and Longoria
- Climbed onto, as a horse
- Extras not being used
- Numerical comparison
- Capture
- Left-hand ledger entry
- Wall recess
- Feels terrible
- Web surfer's stops
- Make airtight
- Sparkle
- Nuisances
- Not well-lit
- Sulks
- Furry swimmers
- Changed slightly
- Lion's cry
- _ in; brought under control
- _ board; place to post notices
- Capitol roof, often
- Dull-colored
- Overdo the role
- Dollar bills
- Part of the ear
- Capital of Bulgaria
- Cincinnati team
- Rams' mates
- Confidence

DOWN

- Not risky



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/27/14

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

JAMS	LABEL	SPAT
UTAH	OPERA	EACH
TOGO	TENET	PLEA
SPIGOTS	NEATEST	
UFO	WORSE	
SLANT	JAW	STAMP
HUNS	PIT	PESTER
INN	CAMELOT	ADO
RAIDER	REX	CLAN
TREED	BEE	HALLE
FETID	NAB	
STRIDES	TITANIC	
IRON	XEROX	RENO
BADE	ACUTE	EATS
SPED	STEED	TROT

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10/27/14

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 40 Bar seat | 54 Goldberg et al |
| 43 Oliver's request | 56 "I Got You"; 1960s song |
| 45 Least fresh | 57 Bean curd |
| 48 Sell from a cart | 58 Suffix for an inflammation |
| 50 Small quake | 59 _ as a pin |
| 51 Zeal | 62 Use an oar |
| 52 Africa's Sierra _ | |
| 53 Two- _; was disloyal to | |

As HIV rises, Uganda activist tries to stop AIDS

RODNEY MUHUMUZA
Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — The dreadlocked 26-year-old, a reformed thief and onetime drug peddler, Hood Katende is now an anti-AIDS activist respect-

old prevention campaigns that in the 1990s made Uganda a global leader in controlling the spread of HIV. The deteriorating situation is also being watched by Western donors who contribute sub-

ing particularly fast among married couples, fueled by the phenomenon of "side dishes," the popular term here for secret lovers or mistresses. Many of those mistresses tend to be vulnerable teenagers who are targeted by wealthy, but often HIV-infected, men.

For Katende, the activist, those most in danger are girls in Kampala's Kamwokya slum who have to scavenge for everything, including food and clothing. Many girls he knows well have been repeatedly raped, and others have sought the services of crude abortionists because of unwanted pregnancies, he says.

Katende walks through his neighborhood, observing quirks of behavior among teenagers with the curious intensity of a researcher. Recently he watched about a dozen children in a dance troupe perfect their hip gyrations before they accompanied him as dancers in an AIDS awareness performance that they will take to eastern Uganda. □



Hood Katende, a 26-year-old reformed thief and onetime drug peddler who now produces music encouraging AIDS awareness, talks to The Associated Press in a small shipping container-turned recording studio in the Kamwokya slum of Kampala, Uganda.
(AP Photo/Rebecca Vassie)

ed in his Kampala slum. He urges young men to wear condoms if they can't avoid premarital sex and encourages teenage girls to reject the sexual advances of older men with money.

"At night you find boys waiting for girls to rape, and I go to them and I try to talk to them not to do it," he said. "I used to be with them, smoking weed the whole day in the ghetto and moving around at night. I was a member of a gang, but now they see that I have changed day and night."

As World AIDS Day is marked Monday, Katende is trying to stem a troubling resurgence in Uganda of HIV, which now infects more than 500 young women between the ages of 15 and 24 each week, according to the Uganda AIDS Commission. Between 2007 and 2013 the number of Ugandans infected with HIV rose from 1.2 million to 1.6 million, according to Uganda's Ministry of Health.

Uganda's HIV prevalence rate now stands at 7.4 percent, up from about 6 percent a decade ago, raising concerns among AIDS activists who want President Yoweri Museveni's government to step up the

stantially toward the cost of AIDS treatment for poor Ugandans.

More than 250,000 Ugandans have reliable access to AIDS treatment through U.S. government. Ugandan researchers say the virus has been spread-

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24/7

South African academy trains anti-poaching dogs

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

Associated Press

RUSTENBURG, South Africa

(AP) — Venom and Killer. These are members of a furry breed of anti-poaching operatives, dogs that can detect a whiff of hidden rhino horn in a suspect's vehicle or follow the spoor of armed poachers in South Africa's besieged wildlife parks.

Dogs are a small part of an increasingly desperate struggle to curb poaching in Africa, where tens of thousands of elephants have been slaughtered in recent years to meet a surging appetite for ivory in Asia, primarily China. In South Africa, poachers have killed more than 1,000 rhinos this year, surpassing the 2013 record. Countries and conservationists are trying more robust patrols and surveillance, community programs and other tactics against criminal gangs that sometimes benefit from official corruption. As the conflict rages, elite dogs and handlers are drilling at an anti-poaching academy northwest of Johannesburg. The course prepares canine units to find firearms or contraband, track suspects in the undergrowth and abseil in harnesses from helicopters in pursuit of poachers. Dogs and handlers learn to trust each other and fine tune a relationship balancing control and aggression. "One needs to be the dominant male. Hopefully, it's the guy and not the dog," said Marius van Heerden, a 28-year-old handler who lives, works and sleeps with Venom, a Belgian Malinois whose breed is known for endurance and athleticism and has been used by the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan. Venom probably got his name

from biting trainers as a puppy, van Heerden said. South Africa-based Paramount Group, which makes military vehicles and other equipment, runs the academy, which has

other in combat exercises at the academy.

"We need to focus our efforts where the need is greatest," said Paramount chairman Ivor Ichikowitz, citing the slaughter

now worry about dogs. One poacher was caught with chili pepper, which he apparently thought would throw pursuing dogs off his scent, and rangers are concerned that poachers

ver bullet," said Richard Vigne, the conservancy's chief executive officer. At the Odzala-Kokoua National Park in Congo, two Belgian Malinois were deployed in a successful trial



In this photo taken Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014 attack dogs and their handlers apprehend a "rhino poacher" center, after alighting from a helicopter into water, in a simulation exercise showing training at an academy run by the Paramount Group, near Rustenburg, South Africa.

about 50 adult dogs and the same number of puppies. Most are Belgian Malinois and German Shepherds.

Henry Holsthyzen, an academy leader, trained a Belgian Malinois called Killer who has been credited with anti-poaching successes in South Africa's Kruger National Park. Some 400 canine units are needed for the country's wildlife parks, but only about 30 are operational, he said. On a recent afternoon, several rangers from the central African country of Gabon lunged at each

of much of Gabon's elephant population. He said poaching was more than a conservation issue because it funds insurgencies and other illegal activities across Africa.

Rhino horn fetches enormous sums on the illegal market. It is made of keratin, a substance also found in human fingernails. Some people covet it as a status symbol and a healing agent despite a lack of evidence that it can cure. Conraad de Rosner, who runs another anti-poaching group called K9 Conservation, said poachers

might try to poison dogs with contaminated meat, he said.

However, de Rosner said handlers were careful about letting dogs attack suspects with potentially lethal force, saying: "We are very reticent to release a dog to bite a suspect, just because of all the legal ramifications thereafter." Conservationists are using dogs elsewhere in Africa. The Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya has Belgian Malinois dogs that are a "piece of the jigsaw puzzle" of anti-poaching tactics but are not "a sil-

to detect ivory and illegally obtained wildlife meat in bags and suitcases, according to African Parks, a Johannesburg-based group that jointly runs the park with the Congolese government.

The bond between dog and ranger is vital, said Holsthyzen, the South African trainer, recalling a student's mistake.

"He gave his dog to someone else to go and put in the kennels," Holsthyzen said. "And my immediate question was, 'Would you have another person sleep with your wife?'" □



In this June 11, 2014 file photo, actor Robert De Niro is interviewed by Chris Wallace at the DC Moore Gallery, in New York. Associated Press

Antigua's PM names De Niro special economic envoy

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (AP)

— The prime minister of Antigua & Barbuda has appointed actor Robert De Niro as special economic envoy of the twin-island nation in the eastern Caribbean.

The administration of Gas-

ton Browne said in a statement Saturday that the appointment comes after De Niro signed a memorandum of agreement on Friday for a \$250 million hotel investment in Barbuda.

Officials said De Niro and Australian businessman

James Packer will help renovate and expand a former five-star luxury resort that closed several years ago.

Browne said he expects the deal to be signed late next month and for construction to begin in the next 12 months.

He said De Niro will help attract more investment and American celebrities to Antigua & Barbuda as special economic envoy. □

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'Snooki' ties the knot in New Jersey



In this Aug. 25, 2013 file photo, Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi, right, and Jionni LaValle arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

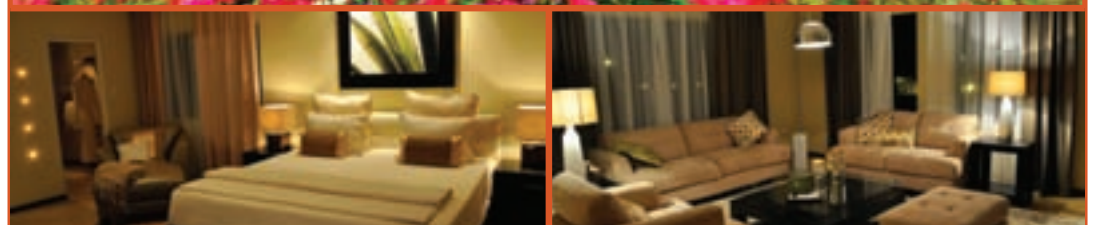
Associated Press

EAST HANOVER, New Jersey (AP) — Snooki has officially tied the knot.

Former "Jersey Shore" reality TV star Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi married boyfriend Jionni LaValle in a church ceremony Saturday in East Hanover, about 15 miles (24 kilometers) west of New York City. The Record newspaper reports that among the guests were

"Jersey Shore" castmates Sammi Giancola. Deena Cortese and Jenni Farley. Polizzi currently stars with Farley in MTV's "Snooki and JWOWW."

"A few dozen onlookers waited outside the church. Seventeen groomsmen and 15 bridesmaids attended the ceremony, which had a "Great Gatsby" theme. □

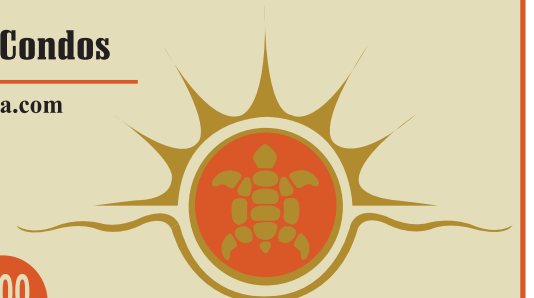


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'Mockingjay' tops 'Penguins,' 'Horrible Bosses'



DERRIK J. LANG
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Moviegoers wanted another helping of "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part One" ruled the Thanksgiving holiday box office for a second weekend in a row with \$56.9 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The total haul for the latest installment of the Lionsgate dystopian series starring Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen stands at

\$225.7 million domestically and \$254.4 million internationally. "Penguins of Madagascar" opened in second place with a chilly \$25.8 million. The animated spin-off centers on the penguin characters from DreamWorks Animation's "Madagascar" franchise. "Penguins" fared better overseas, where the film earned an additional \$36 million. Disney's animated romp "Big Hero 6" and Paramount's space-time saga "Interstellar" respectively

held onto the third and fourth positions with \$18.7 million and \$15.8 million in their fourth weekend at the box office. The domestic total for "Big Hero 6" has ballooned to \$167.2 million, while filmmaker Christopher Nolan's "Interstellar" is

orbiting \$147 million. The Warner Bros. comedy sequel "Horrible Bosses 2" with Jason Bateman, Jason Sudeikis and Charlie Day reprising their roles from the original 2011 movie debuted in fifth place with \$15.7 million.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box office tracker Rentrak, noted the overall box office was down 21 percent from last year when "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" and "Frozen" dominated the box office. □

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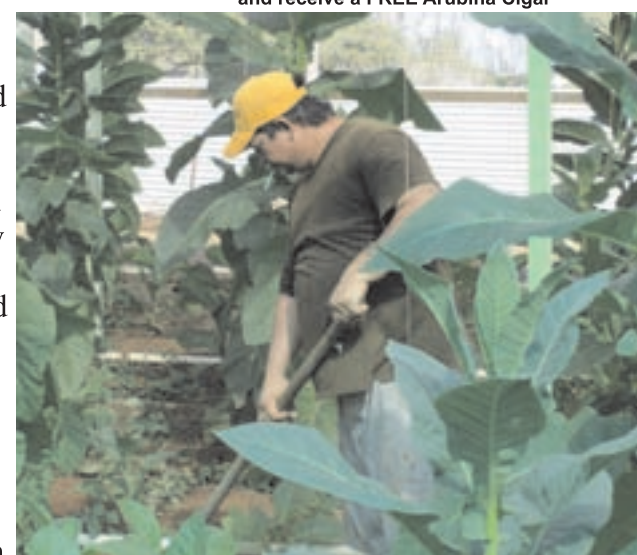
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also



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